

News From
SENATOR LINCOLN CHAFEE
RHODE ISLAND



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CONTACT: Debbie Rich
401 453-5071 or 741-3130

CHAFEE URGES TALKS BETWEEN AT&T & STATE
Offers Assistance Opening Dialogue between AT&T and RIEDC

PROVIDENCE, RI – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee today called upon senior officials at AT&T to reconsider their decision to close its relay center in Providence set for August 29th. The move will displace approximately 100 employees who serve deaf and hearing-impaired callers.

In a letter to David W. Dorman, chairman and CEO of AT&T Corporation, Chafee noted that the withdrawal of the Fortune 500 Company from our state is troubling news that would certainly have an impact on the local economy.

“In light of this announcement, I encourage AT&T to work with the Rhode Island Economic Development Corporation (RIEDC) to develop a strategy for maintaining some level of investment in Rhode Island, whether in the context of a relay center or an alternative technology-based venture,” wrote Chafee.

“Rhode Island’s business climate has been greatly improved over the past decade, and its unique quality of life attracts a diverse, well-educated workforce. I am confident that RIEDC could recommend a number of scenarios that would be beneficial to Rhode Island and make good business sense for AT&T.”

Chafee closed the letter by urging an open dialogue between senior AT&T officials and RIEDC representatives and noted that members of his staff stand ready to work with RIEDC to facilitate a meeting between the State and AT&T Corporation.

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